THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) It has been observed by National Thermal Power Corporation that improvement in coal quality results in lesser coal consumption but at the same time requires additional cost. The reduction in cost of generation in a particular project depends on the level of increase in cost of coal against the level of decrease in coal consumption.

Power generation and consumption in Assam

4922. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of power generation and consumption in the State of Assam during each of the last five years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : The details of electricity generation and energy and peak availability from all sources for consumption in the State of Assam during the last 5 years *i.e.* 1998-99 to 2002-2003 are given as under :—

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Own Generation (MU)	939.0	920.0	1063.0	990.0	884.0
Energy Availability (MU)	2799.2	2918.4	3332.8	3425.2	3349.0
Peak Met (MW)	514.0	556.0	579.0	618.0	589.0

Hydel power potential

4923. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is not able to exploit even 25 per cent of its hydel potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for maximizing hydel power potential utilization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 17% of the assessed hydro potential has been exploited and 6% is under development. Thus, 77% of the hydro power potential is yet to be exploited. The constraints which have affected hydro development are :

— Constraints of survey and investigation.

— Lack of infrastructure.

— Geological uncertainties.

— Resettlement and rehabilitation issues.

— Inter-state aspects.

— Environment and forest clearance.

— Security problems.

— Land acquisition.

— Natural calamities like flash floods.

— Inadequate funding in some State Sector projects.

(c) The Government is according high priority to exploit the untapped hydro-electric potential in the country. A capacity addition of 14,393 MW from hydro projects is to be achieved during the tenth Plan. The hydro-electric projects above 25 MW being executed under Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector are being regularly monitored at various levels. Government of India has introduced three-stage development of hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector with the object of reducing time and cost over-runs during the implementation of these projects. A basin wise 'Ranking Study' of all the balance hydro-electric potential which is yet to be harnessed has been carried out by the CEA and discussions with the State Governments have been initiated to finalize an Action Plan for their subsequent development. The first lot of 162 projects where pre feasibility reports are to be prepared have recently been finalized.

Setting up power projects during Ninth Five Year Plan

4924. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the power projects set up in various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the proposal to set up some power projects in some States are still pending with Government;

(c) if so, the State-wise details of such pending power projects; and

(d) the steps taken to accord early clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A Statement-I showing details of power projects